

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00581 091243Z
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SSO-00 /030 W
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, BGEN, IZ
SUBJECT: STARCO

REF: BAGHDAD 166

1. SUMMARY. IRAQI AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT ACTED ON REQUEST FOR EXIT VISAS FOR STARCO'S AMCIT EMPLOYEES PENDING COURT FINDINGS CONCERNING FIRE WHICH DESTROYED STARCO BUILDINGS MARCH 30. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 AT STARCO WAREHOUSE AND MACHINE SHOP LOCATED SEVERAL KILOMETERS INTO THE DESERT NEAR BASRA DID EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING. ACTING DIRECTOR OF STARCO PROJECT, GALE HAROLD, ESTIMATES DAMAGE AT THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. OTHER STARCO EMPLOYEES PLACE ESTIMATE AT ONE-AND-A-HALF MILLION DOLLARS.

3. ACCORDING TO HAROLD, IRAQI NATIONAL INSURANCE AGENCY AND "SECURITY" AGENCY HAVE ALLEGED THAT STARCO HAD TWO IRAQI GUARDS SET FIRE AT WAREHOUSE. IRAQIS SUSPICIONS WERE ENHANCED BECAUSE FIRE OCCURED ONE DAY BEFORE
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PLANNED STARCO SHUTDOWN MARCH 31. TWO IRAQI GUARDS HAVE BEEN DETAINED AND CASE HAS BEEN REFERRED TO IRAQI COURTS.

4. THIRTEEN AMCITS WORKING FOR STARCO HAD REQUESTED EXIT VISAS BEFORE FIRE BUT HAROLD SAID THAT VISAS WILL APPARENTLY NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL IRAQI JUDGE APPROVES. THE SEWERAGE BOARD HAS INFORMED HAROLD THAT IT HAS NO

OBJECTION TO AMCITS LEAVING, BUT COURT NOW HAS JURISDICTION
OVER THE MATTER. HAROLD HAS NO IDEA WHEN COURT
MAY DECIDE.

5. SEWERAGE BOARD WAS TO HAVE TAKEN OVER PROJECT APRIL 5
BUT HAS NOW POSTPONED DATE UNTIL MAY 19. HAROLD, WHO HAS
HAS APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND IRAQI DINARS (\$3,400)
AT HIS DISPOSAL, IS REQUESTING FUNDS FROM TRIAD BOTH TO
PAY EXPENSES OF AMCITS AND TO MEET PAYROLL FOR EIGHTY-
FIVE IRAQI EMPLOYEES. ALTHOUGH SEWERAGE BOARD HAS
DENIED FUNDS TO TO STARCO, HAROLD HAS BEEN TOLD THAT TPA
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND
COUNCIL (RCC) WILL EVENTUALLY INSTRUCT SEWERAGE BOARD TO
MAKE NECESSARY ADVANCES TO KEEP PROJECT GOING FOR THE
NEXT THREE MONTHS.
WILEY

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Message Attributes

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